



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/8/2004

GAIN Report Number: JA4017

Japan

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Processed foods require bovine free certification

2004

Approved by:

Kevin Latner
U. S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Tetsuo Hamamoto

Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) quarantine officials now require that certain processed foods must be certified not to contain ingredients derived from ruminants, except for dairy products. MHLW has shared the following guidance which is provided to quarantine stations to guide their import requirements.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

As of February 12, 2004, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) has provided the following guidance to quarantine stations requiring certification of ingredients in the case of certain processed foods from the U.S. These requirements have been implemented because of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

Processed foods imported into Japan that may contain ingredients derived from ruminants must be accompanied with written confirmation that materials of ruminant origin have not been used. Dairy products are exempt from this requirement.

The written confirmation is required when there is ambiguity and the raw materials may be derived from ruminants. Where the ingredients can be identified as not being from derived from ruminants from the ingredient label or the import notification, written confirmation is not necessary.

Faxed written responses may be used for confirmation but the originals must be submitted later.

The following are examples provided by MHLW to serve as guidance to importers and exporters:

Chocolate jelly

Ingredients: Cacao 50%, Sugar 20%, Defatted milk 10%, gelatin 5%, Seasoning, flavorings, etc. 5%

Analysis:

Because gelatin may be derived from a bovine product, certification is required from the manufacturer regarding the source of the gelatin.

Certification and documentation is not required for the other ingredients.

If it is cattle origin, importation is not allowed.